

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1760, December 13, 1952

## TURKEY GIVES SHELTER TO A HOMELESS RACE

### Long trek of the Kazaks through Asia

THE remnants of the Kazak people who were driven by Communists from Sinkiang, China's westernmost province, have at last found a home in Turkey. Some 106 of them recently reached Istanbul, and altogether 1850 of them will in due course settle in Turkey.

The Kazaks are a Moslem people belonging to Turkestan, the former name of a region which is partly in Soviet Russia and partly in Sinkiang, north of Tibet. When all Russia became Communist many thousands of them left their homes in Russian Turkestan (now Kazakhstan) to cross the mountain frontier and dwell in safety in Sinkiang until 1936, when this province was also taken over by Communists.

Long famous for their wild, independent life and noted as cavalymen, the Kazaks date back in history to the great Genghis Khan, the Mongol conqueror of Asia. It was he who led them out of Asia Minor into the mountain stronghold of Asia proper.

#### NOMAD PEOPLE

Wandering in vast hordes with thousands of sheep and cattle, and with the two-humped camel as their favourite beast of burden, the Kazaks moved with the seasons, always seeking the greenest grass for their stock.

Strong in physique, with narrow eyes, red faces, and well-made bodies, the Kazaks have always been reckoned among the toughest peoples of central Asia.

Most of their games are played on the small, sturdy horses they ride; one of these games, which they call oghlak, requires a group of horsemen one of whom carries the carcass of a sheep. The aim of this man is to cross a certain line with his burden, while his opponents do everything to prevent him, and strive to seize the carcass in their turn.

The recent troubles of the Kazaks started in 1936 when Russia and Nationalist China began to struggle for supremacy on the roof of Asia. Not liking the Communist puppet-government of Sinkiang, the Kazaks

drove their sheep and cattle and camels before them, and took refuge in Tibet. There they set up their light tents stretched on a framework of trellis wood, or dug deep holes with a great mound of dried cow-dung to protect them.

Over 18,000 Kazaks took part in this trek, but there was worse to come. The peril of Russian Communists was succeeded by the peril of Chinese Communists, who eventually became masters of western Tibet.

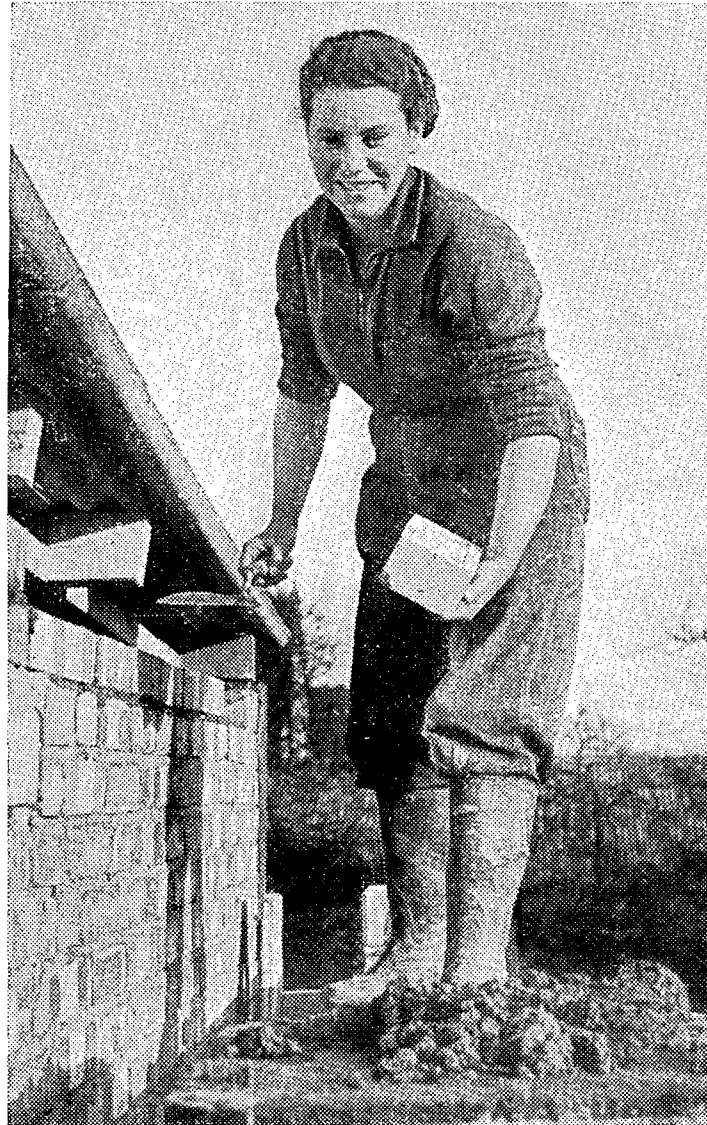
With all the Kazak determination to be free and independent, the Kazaks again started to trek, this time to Indian and Pakistan.

#### HELP AT LAST

Many of them wandered as far as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, losing their cattle as they struggled on. Some of their best men perished, including their leader, Chelikpan. The plight of the Kazaks then became known throughout the Moslem world. Relief was sent to them and Turkey offered a home to the survivors.

So after 1000 years of wandering the Kazaks, whose distinguishing trait is loyalty to their religious and age-old customs, have come home to the ancestral land in Asia Minor from which their forefathers set out.

There, we may hope, these picturesque folk will be allowed to live out their lives in peace.



### On top of her job

Rita Stoneham is only 16, but she can do a man's work for her father, who has a building and decorating business. She is building an extension to a bungalow at Laindon, Essex.

### FINDING WORK FOR THE SUN

In order to test the behaviour of materials at extremely high temperatures, a solar furnace, the biggest of its kind, has been installed at Meudon Observatory, near Paris.

Acting on the same principle as a burning-glass, it is a curved mirror, nearly seven feet in diameter, which catches the Sun's rays and focuses them into a quarter-inch spot just 50 inches in front of the mirror. The temperature of this spot is 9000 degrees Fahrenheit, or only about 1000 degrees less than the surface temperature of the Sun itself.

Queer things happen to materials exposed to this extreme heat. A piece of iron melts at once—boils and steams off as a vapour.

If the present series of experiments are successful, scientists plan to erect "solar stations" in areas where constant sunlight is available, with the possibility of adapting the concentrated Sun's heat for manufacturing processes.

### TIMBER TROUBLE DOWN UNDER

New Zealand's native forests, which formerly covered much of a country the size of Great Britain, will provide timber for only another 12 years at the present rate of tree-felling.

Experts advise the planting of quick-growing imported pines instead of the slow-growing native trees in order to serve the best interests of the Dominion's two million people.

### IT'S COSY UP THERE

Commander Simpson, leader of the British North Greenland Expedition, who was recently in touch by radio with the battleship H.M.S. Vanguard, said that his Arctic hut was much warmer than his office at the Admiralty!

### ALARMING

Sleeping pills introduced in Los Angeles recently were claimed not only to induce sleep but to rouse the sleeper as well after eight hours!

## By Flying Boat to East African Game Reserve

A new-style air safari just introduced in East Africa uses a specially-equipped Catalina flying-boat to take Uganda tourists to the Murchison Falls. They then travel by launch through a teeming game reserve, and are back in their hotels within nine hours.

Brought from Sweden for this fascinating equatorial service, the plane is piloted by a wartime R.A.F. flier. It takes off from Entebbe's fine airport with a tricycle undercarriage; this retracts into a recess, and 90 minutes later the Catalina comes gliding down on the gleaming Victoria Nile.

#### GREAT SIGHTS

During that short time the tourists have enjoyed sights as breathtaking as Africa can offer. To the north, massive escarpments sink into smoky plains, with the silver ribbon of the Nile winding away to the southern Sudan. Westward, on the far side of Lake Albert, loom the majestic barriers on the Belgian Congo frontier.

The Victoria Nile joins Lake Albert only a few miles from the safari plane's landing-point. Beforehand, a speedy motor-boat ensures that this stretch of the tropical river is free of inquisitive hippos or malevolent crocodiles. A green Vercy light signals "all clear" to the circling aircraft.

Stepping into a modern launch, the passengers are whisked off between sun-drenched but luxuriant banks to the Murchison Falls, that awe-inspiring spot where a gorge forces the Nile to cascade in spray and thunder to a lower level.

#### ABOUNDING WILD LIFE

From the safety of the launch, tourists can see and photograph some of the Dark Continent's finest wild life. Elephant, buffalo, and the buck family abound; monkeys shriek and grimace from riverside trees.

The Queen Elizabeth National Park has only just been officially declared in this region, and if the air safari prospers, a permanent camp may be built.

Recently the busy Catalina landed for the first time on Lake Bunyoni, 6500 feet above sea level. Gaunt hills surround this lonely eyrie. The local inhabitants, stirred by the news of the plane's arrival, thronged to the scene, and dozens of canoes swept over the water to see this strange newcomer from the skies.

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### Buglers on parade

Five W.R.A.F. buglers of the Royal Air Force station band at Innsworth, Gloucestershire, march out smartly onto the parade ground.



# ATLANTIC TREATY NATIONS MEET

By the C.N. Diplomatic Correspondent

THE responsible Ministers of 15 countries will discuss their examination results when they meet in Paris next Monday as the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

This indeed is no fanciful way of stating what is about to happen in the progressive development of N.A.T.O. The examination was undertaken after the last full meeting of the Council of Ministers at Lisbon in February.

N.A.T.O. may be regarded as a kind of club in which each of the Powers agreed as members to state what they could do to further the plans considered essential for defending peace in the West. The answers have been submitted, checked, and analysed by panels of experts; and next week they will be reviewed by the Council.

Without any doubt these answers will bring some change of direction in policy. For both the defence plans and the economic plans made at Lisbon are likely to be thoroughly reconsidered in the light of new circumstances.

Whereas defence will be an important part of the discussion, stress will certainly be laid on the equally important need to examine the economic problems of the club and to rouse the community spirit among its members.

Priority tasks will be to find the best ways of sharing the cost, dividing the labour, and consulting more closely on economic matters.

This all means that the great Atlantic federation we call

N.A.T.O. is feeling its way towards a free world, with opportunities for real prosperity and progress but with no opportunity for putting peace in jeopardy.

The difficulties are tremendous. The Ministers, for example, must be aware that they have not yet succeeded in making the young men and women in their respective allied countries realise the high ideal behind the plans for adequate forces.

Though they feel no undue pessimism about the prospects, they and their governments feel that the defence arrangements should be more precise.

## THE REAL PRIZE

Until this is done, and the club is strong and confident, the consideration of those wider aims and ideals which would arouse the enthusiasm of youth seem destined to be postponed.

And yet all the Ministers are determined that, whatever the sacrifice, the real prize—freedom to make a new world in a vast free community—must be achieved.

For Britain, Mr. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, will go to Paris accompanied by Earl Alexander, the Defence Minister. Mr. R. A. Butler, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to supervise our proposals on the economic side of the conference.

Mr. Churchill for his part has already made it clear that Britain's defence programme must be spread, and met, over a period of four instead of three years. The French Government, too, are particularly anxious for more economical methods in N.A.T.O.

## AMERICAN CONCERN

The new policies of the United States have yet to be formulated by the President-elect, Mr. Dwight Eisenhower, and Mr. Foster-Dulles, the Secretary of State. As the American rearmament programme has also been spread over a longer period they may well see the need for adjustments. The Americans are especially concerned with the hesitations in France and Germany for reaching a firm basis of understanding.

Opinion has been divided in Germany on what their policy should be, but Dr. Adenauer, the Chancellor of their Federal Republic, holds that the Germans should show their willingness to co-operate in the cause of peace. As a result there is now more confidence in France.

What all Ministers are prepared to do is to survey scrupulously and carefully the problems of the club as a whole, rather than treating members individually.

In this atmosphere the important meetings in Paris will begin next week.

# CARPET BUG ON THE CARPET

To live unobserved among giants a thousand times bigger than oneself, and to find that their clothes were made of plum pudding and mince-pies, would be a fine idea—so long as they did not notice the holes in their garments.

Something like that has happened to a little-known bug that is born in a bird's nest and grows up to eat carpets and clothes. All seems to have gone well with it until lately, when it attracted the notice of the Pest Infestation Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Sometimes called the Carpet Beetle, it is a tiny creature between one-sixteenth and one-eighth of an inch long. It can wreak enormous havoc on fabrics of many kinds. In Yorkshire it has caused great damage in stores of wool, and in private houses it feasts on fur coats, carpets, and any kind of clothes put away for a period.

## LIKES WARMTH

It likes a warm billet such as a hot-air cupboard with a lavish food supply in the form of clothes, or hot-water pipes wrapped round with material.

The young carpet beetle, or buffalo bug, or woolly bear, as it is also called, generally makes its way to an attic when it leaves the bird's nest, and feeds on such hard tack as suitcases. But as it grows older it learns better, and makes its way to the warmer and more succulent regions downstairs.

Alas, its life of snug feasts is likely to end as the scientists devise methods of exterminating it.

## AN OLD EXPLORER PASSES ON

Dr. Sven Hedin faced death many times in distant lands, but he has died at home in his native Sweden at the ripe age of 87.

He was famed for his exploration of wild and little-known regions of Central Asia. He crossed the Takla Makan desert in Sinkiang—visited by Marco Polo—made the first detailed map of Tibet, and discovered the sources of the Indus and the Brahmaputra.

He was also a great writer, some of his books on the lands he explored becoming classics. Geographical societies in many countries honoured him.

## HIS OLD BUSH HAT

Field-Marshal Sir William Slim is keeping his baton, but he has given to the County Military Museum at York the bush hat he wore in the momentous Burma campaign.

This neat-looking hat, together with a signed photograph of the Field-Marshal wearing it, now holds a place of honour in the display of the West Yorkshire Regiment, of which he is colonel-in-chief. Sir William wore this hat all through the big, decisive battles of Kohima, Imphal, Mandalay, Meiktila, and in the dash down to Rangoon.

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# News from Everywhere

## LUMBERJACK SCHOOL

Students from 18 Far Eastern countries are now studying modern lumbering methods at a training centre at Manila, Philippines. They will also be taught the rudiments of road and rail construction.

An ankle-length coat of finest Welsh wool which was first worn by a Shrewsbury man in 1865 is still worn constantly by his grandson.

Sixteen-year-old David Dick, of Mains o' Throsk, Stirling, recently beat 32 men in winning a first prize at the British national ploughing championships.

The falling of rock in a cave near Ischia, Viterbo, Italy, has revealed a forgotten church of the 11th or 12th century.

## RARE BATH NIGHT

Between seven and eight per cent of Britain's population take a bath less than once a week, says a Government report.

A bicycle of transparent plastic is being produced in Holland.

Over 8000 relics of passenger travel in London through the years will be exhibited at Euston Station next year.

Cod liver oil is being supplied to miners at Atherton, Lancashire. Officials hope it will keep down colds and so maintain good attendance.

## THRILLER!

An unopened pay packet was a bookmark in a book returned to Irchester Library, Northamptonshire.

The vicar of Hellesdon, Norwich, has plans for turning the disused local railway station into a Sunday School.

London schoolchildren are being tested for the choir of 1000 boys and girls who will sing at a Coronation Concert at the Royal Albert Hall next June.

## NO PROGRESS

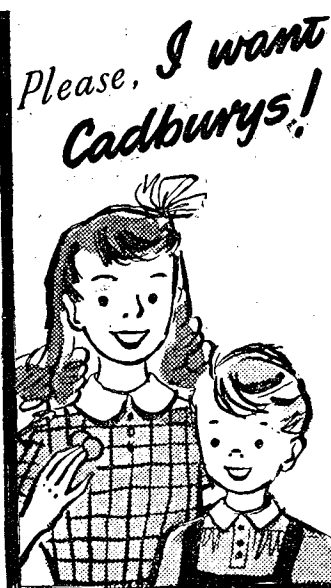
People of Toronto reported that an airplane was in trouble when they saw it flying backwards. Later the pilot said that he was flying at 65 m.p.h. into a 75 m.p.h. wind.

A collection of over 1000 prehistoric implements—flint axes, arrowheads, and so on—have been presented to Scunthorpe Museum. All of them were found in and around this Lincolnshire town.

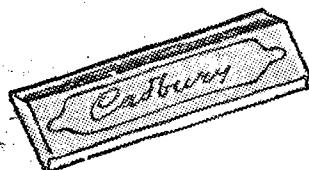
Zurich will honour our Coronation next year with a festival which will include a British industrial exhibition, performances of British music, plays, and films, a British art show, and a sports match against a British team.

## SKILFUL SIX

Six brothers who are bus-drivers in Manchester have all won diplomas for safe driving.



Yes, they both want Cadburys Milk Chocolate, because they love its beautiful creamy taste. And Cadburys make milk chocolate bars which fit in well with young people's pocket money. So when you call in for your weekly ration, just say 'I want Cadburys, please!'



## A ROUND Colour Box for Christmas!



Here is something new in colour boxes: circular and made of ivory-toned plastic. The top unscrews with half a turn and when reversed can be used as a palette and water cup. The "Ostwald Circle Box" contains ten tablets of clear, easy-flowing colours and twelve deep mixing wells.

This Christmas ask your parents for an "Ostwald Circle Colour Box" made by Winsor & Newton, makers of colours and materials used by artists all over the world.

WINSOR & NEWTON LTD, Weybridge, Middlesex. Also New York and Sydney.

## WHAT A GRAND PRESENT, BOYS!

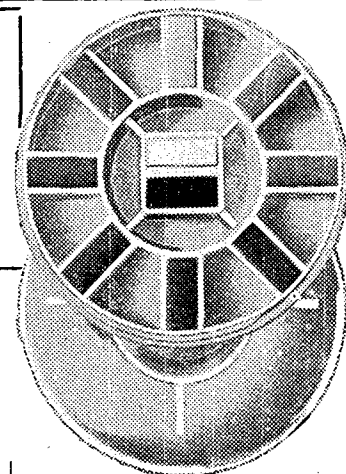
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## SIGNALLING OUTFIT

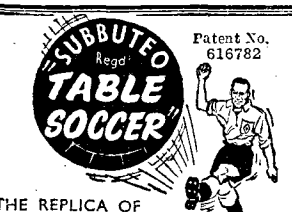
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**CN Picture-News and Time Map**

**SUN'S FARTHEST SOUTH**  
On December 21 the Sun reaches its extreme southern limit over the Tropic of Capricorn, and, as a few days pass before the Sun seems to move north again, it is called the Winter Solstice, or "sun stands still." December 21 is the longest day south of the Equator and the shortest day north of the Equator.  
The clocks above show time all over the world when it is 12 o'clock at Greenwich.

**WELCOME WINDS**  
A cool health-giving wind which is known as the Fremantle Doctor, is now blowing on the hot coasts of south-west Australia.  
The Smokes, a cool wind that overclouds the sky with fine dust from the Sahara, is now very welcome on the west coast of Africa.  
Warm westerly winds blowing on the western shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans keep these coasts free from ice in winter.

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** a Swiss pilot has landed a plane with two passengers on the Forno Glacier at 8000 feet. He also made a successful take-off.

**100,000 SALMON EGGS** from hatcheries in the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec have been flown to France to be placed in the Allier River. The eggs were packed in damp muslin for transit.

**WORK** has begun on a hydro-electric scheme in the Valais mountains which will be able to supply the whole of Switzerland with power. See news columns.

**BALLOONS** carrying geiger counters and radio transmitters are being sent up to the stratosphere from a cosmic ray research station at Aligarh, India.

**SCIENTISTS** are exploring the forests of Colombia to study wild cocoa plants with a view to improving those already under cultivation.

**KHARTOUM**, in the Sudan, is to have a National Botanic Garden covering about 12 acres.

**CONSTRUCTION** of Singapore's new airport has been held up because a sacred Bo Tree stands in the path of a main runway. See news columns.

**THREE SHIPS** from Queensland caught 600 whales in five months during their first season. The Moreton Island station has produced nearly 500 tons of oil.

## SACRED TREE ON THE RUNWAY

Construction of Singapore's big new airport has been held up because a 30-year-old Bo Tree, the fig tree sacred to Buddhists, stands on the line of a proposed 8000-foot runway.

Eighty-feet high and three feet in girth, the tree is reputed to be a sapling of the Bo Tree in Bihar, India, under which Buddha sat for seven weeks in contemplation 2500 years ago.

Engineers are planning how they can move it to a spot 200 yards away without killing it.

See World Map

## POWER FROM SWISS GLACIERS

Work has started on a great new hydro-electric scheme in the Swiss mountains bordering the Rhône valley in the Canton of Valais. When completed, it will be able to supply the whole country with electricity.

Water from 20 Alpine glaciers will flow along 80 miles of tunnels to a reservoir formed by a dam more than 900 feet high. The scheme will take 15 years to complete.

See World Map

## EYE MAGNET

A British firm has just designed a small opthalmic magnet for removing iron and steel particles from the eye. The magnet is said to be the best of its type; it weighs little, is easily held in the hand, and can be plugged into an ordinary household power point.

## ADOPTED SHIPS

The crews of 1000 British merchant vessels can be sure of receiving at least one Christmas card this year. For already children in 900 schools through Britain are busy despatching Christmas cards, calendars, and gifts for their "adopted" ships.

The scheme, run by the British Ship Adoption Society, is becoming more and more popular; another 80 schools are waiting to adopt ships as they become available.

Children pay frequent visits to the docks to greet their ship on their return from overseas.

## THIS KIND WORLD

Fifty crippled children at a hospital at Gringley-on-the-Hill, in Nottinghamshire, now spend many happy hours beside a television set, thanks to six girls who live in the village of Blyth, a few miles away.

The girls started a fund to buy a T V set for the hospital, and soon had the full support of their grown-up friends. Whist drives, competitions, and sales were organised, and in seven weeks £119 was raised to buy and instal the set.

## FOR YOUNG MALAYA

A college to train Malayan teachers has been officially opened at Kirkby, near Liverpool.

It has 300 students of four races—Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Eurasian—and their task is urgent, for the number of children in Malaya's primary schools has trebled since the war.

## PUPPET PANTO

About 50 marionettes, three feet high, are being prepared in a North London studio for a puppet pantomime which is to open at the New Torch Theatre, Knightsbridge, on December 30.

The pantomime is Cinderella, but the characters will include a Puss in a pair of balsa-wood Boots, five inches high, a White Poodle, dressed in fur and taffeta, who finds the Glass Slipper, a family of Teddy Bears, a Skeleton which comes to pieces and frightens Buttons in an attic, and a Black Cat.

Ron and Joan Field have made the puppets and scenery in their studio in Highgate, helped by Jean Fox and Marion Corbett. A caste of young actors and actresses are being recruited for some of the speaking parts.

## PANTOMIME ON ICE

Comic "animals" with necks 40 feet high will appear in Sleeping Beauty on Ice, which opens on December 18 at the Empire Pool, Wembley.

Stars of the show will be Gloria Nord, the American ice ballerina, and Daphne Walker, who started skating when she was five and went on to win the British Amateur Skating title before turning professional.

## GOOD SCOUTS ALL

Frederick Tribe, aged 18, who recently became Folkestone's first Queen's Scout, comes from a Scouting family. His father is a Scoutmaster, his mother is a Guide Captain, and his sister Mary is already a Queen's Guide.

## LEICESTER'S OLD TOWN WAITS

Every year during the six weeks before Christmas, four official town waits play carols and old ballads to the people of Leicester while most of them are in bed.

By ancient law, they must not begin before the clock has struck the last note of midnight, and they must finish before dawn.

The Leicester waits can be traced back to the 15th century, when there were only three players. Each wore a scarlet cloak, and around his neck hung a silver badge bearing the town's arms.

They were paid by levies on the aldermen and councillors, and, in those days, their work continued throughout the whole year. During the night, their duties included calling out the time and weather.

In 1836 their badges and instruments were sold by the council, together with the official mace and other regalia. But the waits continued with their own instruments and without uniform, although each year they have to seek formal permission from the Lord Mayor on November 16.

## STICKLEBACKS AT OXFORD

Forty live sticklebacks have travelled by air from the United States to Oxford. They are a gift from the New York Zoological Gardens to the Oxford University Department of Zoology, where the behaviour of these little fish is being studied.

It is hoped that more of the fish will soon be sent over the Atlantic. Some 600 has been asked for.

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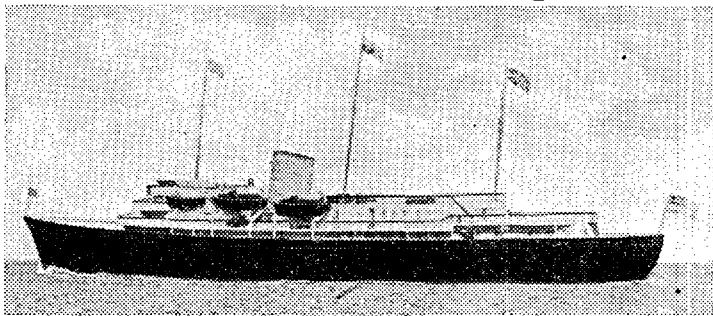
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## SHIP FIT FOR A QUEEN



This picture shows a model of the new Royal Yacht which the Queen is to launch on Clydeside next April.

The 4000-ton vessel has been designed so that in time of war she could be rapidly converted into a hospital ship, with wards, operating theatres, and a deck on which helicopter ambulances could land.

She is also equipped with radar.

We all hope, of course, that the ship will retain her peacetime arrangements, with State apartments for the Royal Family, and sun and shelter decks.

The Royal Yacht is expected to be completed towards the end of 1953. She will be 413 feet long, with a beam of 55 feet.

## POSTAL-ORDER TIME

As Christmas approaches the sale of postal orders increases. They are often the last refuge of people who "just can't think what to give so-and-so," and most of us who receive them readily forgive the donor's lack of imagination.

Most fathers can recall that Billy Bunter spent a long boyhood in confident anticipation of a postal order; but we doubt whether many of them can recall the name of the man who first devised them.

The man responsible was George Chetwynd, Receiver and Accountant General. He suggested postal orders in 1874, but a bill to estab-

lish them was for six years opposed in Parliament; it was the golden era of sovereigns and half-sovereigns, and the idea was denounced as "an attempt to start a paper currency system."

But at last, on New Year's Day, 1881, Britain got its postal orders. The first one, numbered 000,001, was sold to a Mr. James Wight, who kept it as a souvenir.

In the first three months of 1881 650,000 postal orders were sold; now over 480 million are sold every year, and machines to print them while you wait have been installed in some post offices.



by Ernest Thomson, our Radio and Television Correspondent

### Coronation music

WESTMINSTER ABBEY on Coronation Day will be brilliant with the pageantry of our country's greatest and most solemn ceremonial. But the Abbey has a very different aspect just now, especially after dark, when the last public visitor has gone.

I was a privileged late guest there the other evening while Dr. W. N. McKie, the Abbey organist, played Coronation music which was being recorded by the B B C for use next summer.

My impressions were unforgettable—the vast empty minster, a twinkle of light over the organ loft, engineers on tiptoe adjusting microphones in the nave, and, above all, the echoing glory of a Handel Concerto and that Trumpet voluntary attributed to Purcell.

One of the vestries has been converted into a temporary control room. From here the music was "piped" by wire to studios at Maida Vale, where it was recorded on 16-inch discs which will eventually be packed and despatched to broadcasting stations in the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

### Zoo babies on TV

IN Looking at Animals, on Saturday evening, Mr. George Cansdale, Superintendent of the London Zoo and Zoo Man of television, will introduce us to what he calls "the Night Shift"—creatures like owls, voles, field mice, and other nocturnal prowlers.

On December 27, he tells me, he is bringing to the studio all the Zoo babies old enough to leave their mothers for a few hours. It will include lambs and lion cubs.

### Beating "blind spots"

ENGINEERS trying to bring good reception to the so-called "blind spots," both in sound broadcasting and television, have the loneliest jobs in the B B C.

Two caravans, each fitted with a 4-kilowatt transmitter, are roaming the country relaying the Home Service in districts where there have been complaints about reception. Each is operated by only two men—almost as lonely as lighthouse keepers.

If their labours produce the desired result, a permanent transmitter is installed and the caravan moves on. This has just happened at Barnstaple and Folkestone.

### One man TV stations

FOR real solitude, however, we must turn to the engineers manning the two mobile television units which are to relay Coronation programmes over Tyneside and Belfast.

Both on Pontop Pike, in north-east England, and on the Sperrin Mountains overlooking Belfast, one lonely engineer will control the knobs "feeding" the pictures into the aerial.

After each night's programme he will lock up the van and wend his way back to civilisation.

C N Astronomer considers the chances of the space-travellers

## GLORIES OF VENUS, JUPITER, AND MARS

THE evening sky is at present singularly beautiful, with the added adornment of Venus, Jupiter, and Mars.

The peregrinations of these planets are of particular interest just now. Venus has become a very fine object in the south-west sky, far outshining all stars and even Jupiter, which is high in the south-east in the early evening.

Venus is now approaching the Earth, and so will become still more brilliant. She is at present about 97 million miles away, and, seen telescopically, appears gibbous like the Moon when about eleven days old.

In apparent size Venus is much smaller than Jupiter—less than half the diameter of that golden sphere, when seen through a telescope. Her much greater brilliance is due to her being much nearer to the Sun and to us, together with the highly-reflective character of her cloud-covered surface. This makes all the difference compared with Jupiter, whose surface is also covered with dense belts of cloud; but they are of a very different colour and chemical composition.

Jupiter is now almost at his nearest to us for this year, being 392 million miles distant; he is therefore at his brightest, though he has begun to recede. Jupiter will nevertheless appear to get closer to Venus, and it will be interesting to note this gradual approach of the two planets to one another during the coming weeks.

### CHANGING POSITIONS

The movements of Mars are also of interest during the next few weeks. He now appears no brighter than a first-magnitude star owing to his present distance, of nearly 150 million miles, so he is rather inconspicuous in the twilight sky.

Mars will be found some way to the left of Venus, the accompanying map showing the position of the planets on December 16 in relation to the third-magnitude star Delta-in-Capricornus. Glasses will greatly help in spotting the star. But Venus and Mars will not remain long in this position rela-

tive to the star, for they are speeding to the left and in the direction of the arrows on the map.

Venus is slowly gaining on Mars, but so slowly that she will not catch him up until March next, by which time Mars will appear still fainter. It will, however, be of interest to follow the movements of these two worlds while Jupiter draws nearer.

How different are these three planets from one another, and what difficulties they present as objectives for inter-planetary travel! Mars, a singularly similar though small replica of the Earth in appearance, has conditions so vastly different that it is doubtful whether a man could live there for an hour.

Venus, though coming nearer to us than any of the other worlds, reveals less owing to her intense

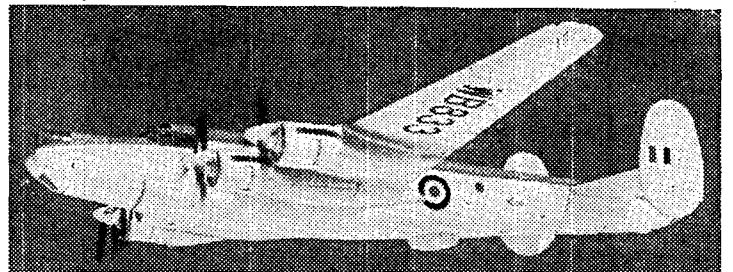


brilliance and the disadvantage of her position relative to the Earth and Sun when she is at her nearest to us. Any reliable evidence indicates conditions well suited to the support of life, but the adaptability of human beings is very doubtful.

To take but one example: is the amount of oxygen in the very dense atmosphere of Venus the same as on Earth? Unquestionably not! And if there is any appreciable difference it would be impossible to live for a day on Venus, even though the planet may be teeming with life forms of its own.

The huge Jupiter with an equatorial diameter of 88,700 miles—that is about eleven times greater than either the Earth or Venus—and with a surface 120 times greater, is beyond question inhospitable to any kind of human life. One breath of his known atmosphere would probably prove fatal. But what lies far below those poisonous enveloping clouds of Jupiter no one knows. G. F. M.

## PLANES FOR THE SPOTTER'S NOTEBOOK



29. Shackleton MR Mk. 2

Long-range submarine-hunting and maritime reconnaissance are the duties of the massive Avro Shackleton MR Mk. 2, the latest version of an already well-tried Coastal Command aircraft.

It differs from its predecessor mainly in having a re-designed fuselage with a much-modified nose and tail. The fuselage ends in a long cone, with a comfortably fur-

nished observer's position in the extreme tail.

Another feature is the large radar "dustbin" aft of the bomb bay, which can be retracted telescopically. Power for the Shackleton is provided by four Rolls-Royce Griffon piston engines, each driving contra-rotating airscrews.

Span: 120 feet; length: 87 feet 4 inches. No details of performance have been released.

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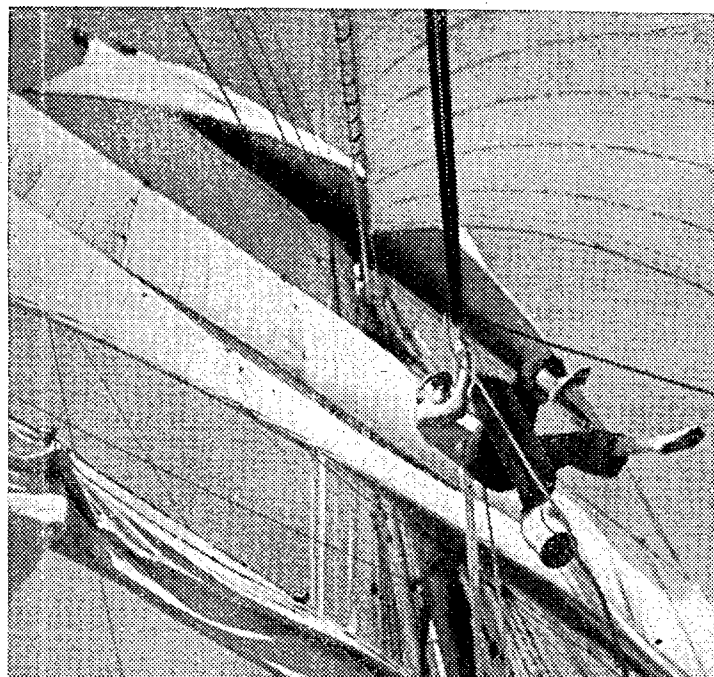
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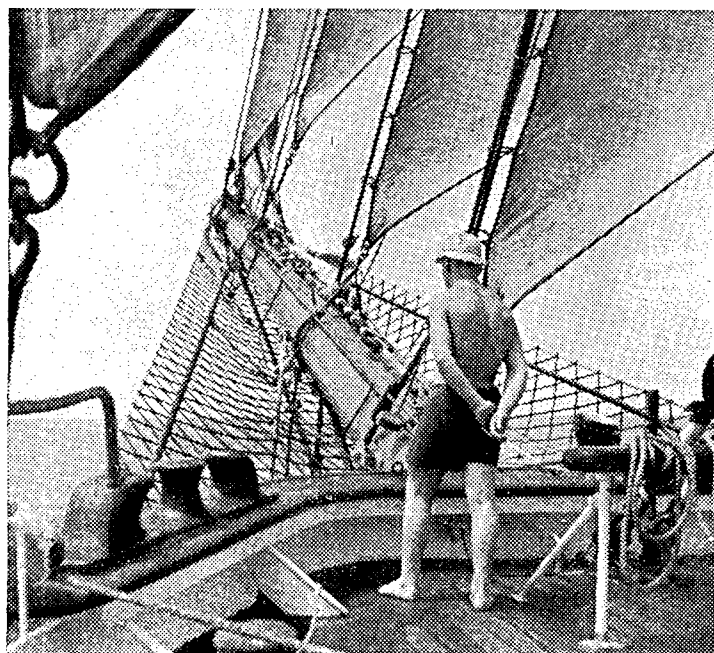
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A view up the mizzen mast. The square sails, starting from the bottom, are the crojack (hanging in the buntlines), lower tops'l, upper tops'l, lower togans'l, upper togans'l. The fore and aft sail is the mizzen topmast stays'l. They were all drawing well in the North-East Trades.



A cadet stands lookout on the fo'c'sle head. In English ships the nets under the bowsprit were unknown. On the left is the tack of the fores'l. The other sails, working outboard, are the fore topmast stays'l, and the inner, outer, and flying jibs.



Two of the German boys lashing the mains'l sheet after the sails have been trimmed. The sheets and tacks of the courses (lower sails) were always left on the capstan.

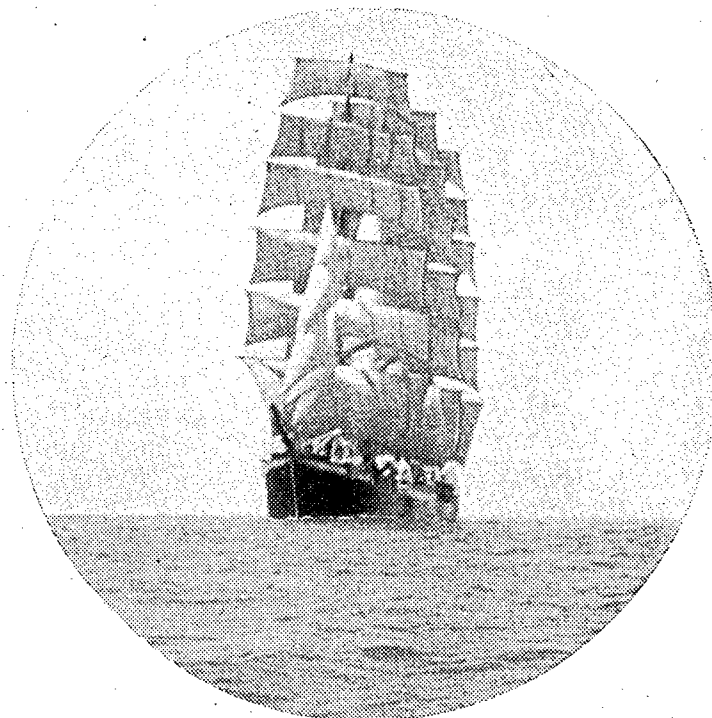
## O'er the wide horizon with white sails unfurled

ONLY 18 months ago the Pamir and the Passat were saved from the scrapheap at the last moment. Now they are in danger again; falling freights have cut their estimated earnings and Mr. Heinsz Schliwen, the German shipowner who reconditioned them as cargo-carrying schoolships, finds himself short of working capital.

There are hopes that these two fine four-masted barques may be transferred to the German authorities for use as training ships, or that a body of those interested in sail training may be formed to run the vessels. But at present the Pamir is laid up in Rotterdam, and a similar fate probably awaits the Passat when she returns to Hamburg from her present voyage to South America.

Nine British boys have sailed in Passat and Pamir since they were taken over by the Germans, and the fine photographs reproduced on this page were taken by one of them, Martin Tunstall, who sailed as A.B. in charge of the English cadets on the first voyage of the Pamir under the present regime. Tunstall, who had previously served as a R.N.V.R. watchkeeping officer on minesweepers in the Mediterranean, himself supplied the captions to his pictures, and, as will be seen, they smack of the sea; no mere landlubber could have written them!

THE Pamir (2796 gross tons) was built at Hamburg 47 years ago; the Passat (3137 tons) is six years younger. Both sailed in the Chilean nitrate trade until 1931, when they passed to the blue-and-



There was a light wind and the motor-boat was lowered, so we were lucky enough to see the Pamir gracefully sailing over the Atlantic swell under full canvas—a rare sight these days.

white flag of Finland and the Australian grain trade.

During the war the Pamir was fortunate enough to be seized by the New Zealanders, who overhauled her thoroughly and ran her extremely profitably in the Pacific. When peace came New Zealand put her in the grain trade to the United Kingdom.

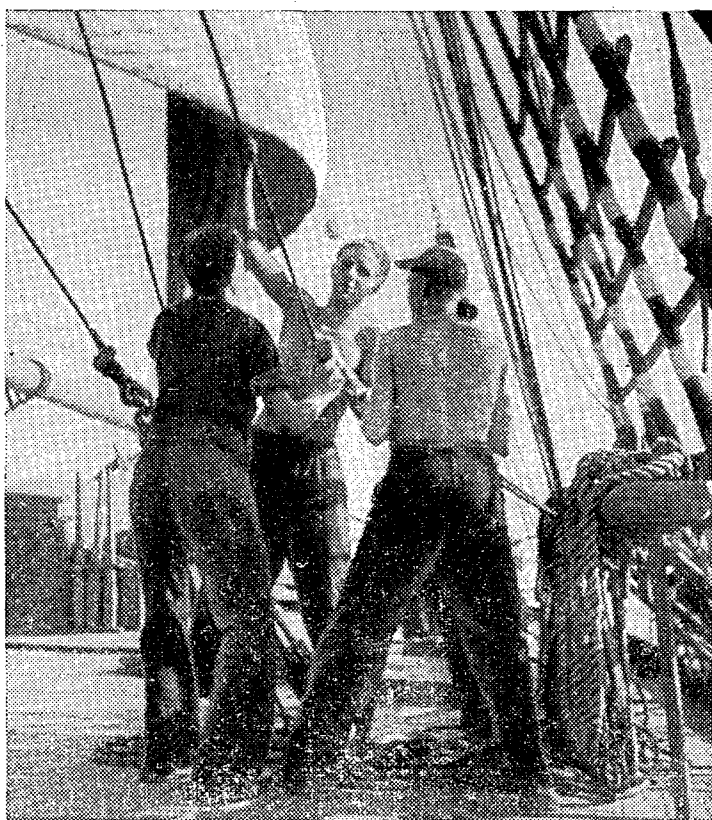
The Pamir was afterwards handed back to the Finns, but as they could not run her at a profit they sold her to the Germans at a slightly lower price than they were

offered for her as scrap. The Germans put in extra bulkheads, an auxiliary engine, and refrigerator. The Passat, similarly re-equipped, was laid up during the war, but afterwards made two round voyages under the Finnish flag.

Each now carries 60 cadets in addition to master and four mates, a doctor, wireless operator, two engineers, sailmakers, and carpenters. The British cadets have been recruited from the famous Blue Funnel line of Liverpool.



One of the English boys smears the backstays, hanging in a bosun's chair high over the sea. A good deal of the white lead seems to have been applied to his dungarees.



On the poop, sweating up on the head outhaul of the upper spanker. On the right is the main rail and the shrouds of the jigger mast.



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars • London • E.C.4  
DECEMBER 13 . . . . . 1952

## STRENGTHENING THE BONDS

DURING the past 20 years the bonds which link the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations have been so strengthened that it is now unthinkable they can ever be broken.

To tighten the bonds still more, another shining link is being forged, for the English-Speaking Union has launched a fund to pay tribute to the memory of King George the Sixth, who himself inspired so much goodwill between the nations.

It will be an American fund which, in the moving words of Mr. Lewis Douglas, will express the esteem of Americans for, "a good man whose homely virtues held hundreds of millions of men and women together during one of the most troubled periods of modern history, and commended him with affection and respect to the citizens of all parts of the civilised world."

The memorial fund will be used to provide educational opportunities for young people. The aim is to raise at least 500,000 dollars to enable students from British Commonwealth countries to study in the United States.

As Mr. Churchill has said, this fund is in entire harmony with the causes which King George cherished, and with our own plans for paying tribute to his memory.

## Under the Editor's Table

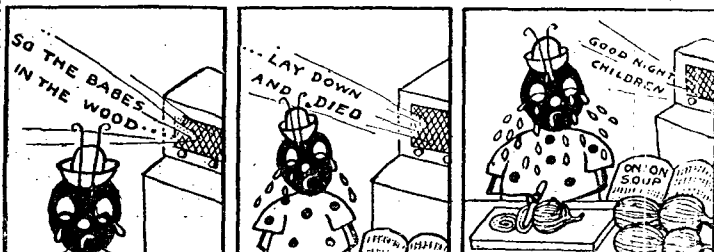
A certain school holds all its exams out of doors. Nobody goes in for them.

Some 166 ploughmen competed in a National Championship match. And made furrows in the judges' brows.

What makes a book a best-seller? People buying it.

Children's legs are growing longer. Through taking everything in their stride.

### BILLY BEETLE



# The Editor's Table

## WONDERFUL NEW WINDOW

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, Paddington, has a wonderful new Te Deum window recalling many interesting events and people connected with this London borough.

Our picture shows the panel of Lord Baden Powell, who was born in the parish and baptised



in this church. Another panel shows Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, at work in St. Mary's Hospital.

The window is being dedicated by the Bishop of London on December 11.

## EXCUSE FOR BANQUETS

The process of digestion, as I have been informed by anatomical friends, is one of the most wonderful works of nature. I do not know how it may be with others, but it is a great satisfaction to me to know, when regaling on my humble fare, that I am putting in motion the most beautiful machinery with which we have any acquaintance. I really feel at such times as if I was doing a public service.

Mr. Pecksniff in Martin Chuzzlewit

## JUST AN IDEA

As Shakespeare wrote: Better a little chiding than a great deal of heartbreak.

## Florence Nightingale of the 20th century

BRITAIN is much the poorer for the passing of Dame Katharine Furse, founder of the V.A.D.s and the "Wrens." She was a 20th-century Florence Nightingale.

On the outbreak of the First World War she and a few friends went to France as volunteer nurses to tend the wounded. Officialdom frowned on them, so they got hold of railway trucks at Boulogne and became maids-of-all-work. In the end, their splendid spirit of service broke down all opposition from the authorities, and the Voluntary Aid Detachments were soon playing a vital part in caring for the wounded.

In 1917 she once again earned the undying gratitude of her country by organising the Women's Royal Naval Service, affectionately known as Wrens; it was another great work, done purely out of a sense of duty, for she disliked publicity.

Dame Katharine Furse will be remembered as a gracious lady who was also a dauntless pioneer.

## Youth takes a hand

"A DISGRACE to the community!" said many people as they passed by the Wadsley Bridge district war memorial at Sheffield. Weeds were growing in crevices between the steps, the garden was full of weeds, the front wall was falling, the gate was broken, and the railings bore witness to a colliding lorry.

Young people of the local Methodist Guild Club decided to act. Working mostly at night by the light of a street lamp, they scrubbed the grey granite—five times! Then they re-painted and repaired the railings, and tidied the garden. Now, with the youngsters of Christ Church, Wadsley, they have made themselves responsible for the maintenance of the memorial.

Well done, young Wadsley!

## Thirty Years Ago

A CONCERT broadcast from Newark, in the United States, was clearly heard by two people in England—a wireless engineer listening at South Norwood, and an amateur listener at Holyhead. Both heard the music quite clearly, and were able to detect piano, violin, and vocal selections.

The most wonderful thing about this telephony is that it was effected by waves of short length and low power, which do not usually travel nearly so far. An electrical expert, Mr. Frank Phillips, believes the waves must have been assisted by exceptionally favourable atmospheric conditions.

On a previous occasion a concert given in Chelmsford was heard in Northern Persia.

From the Children's Newspaper, December 16, 1922

## THANK YOU, MR. POSTMAN

EVERY postman should have a good memory, but in the case of Mr. William Whatty it has been his pride and joy. For 45 years he has been the postman in the little Cornish fishing village of Mevagissey, and although 22 people of the same name live in the same street he has never handed a letter to the wrong person.

When he first began delivering letters in 1907 as a part-time postman his wage was 2s. 6d. per week. Later, when a Sunday delivery was initiated, he received an additional shilling.

Now, after walking more than 140,000 miles in the service of others, Mr. Whatty has retired. Long may he enjoy the services of his successor.

## On the new coins



The Queen's head for the new coinage. It was designed by 71-year-old Mrs. Mary Gillick of Chelsea.

## REALMS OF GOLD

Summer fading, winter comes—  
Frosty mornings, tingling thumbs,  
Window robins, winter rooks,  
And the picture story-books.

We may see how all things are,  
Seas and cities, near and far,  
And the flying fairies' looks,  
In the picture story-books.

How am I to sing your praise,  
Happy chimney-corner days,  
Sitting safe in nursery nooks,  
Reading picture story-books?

R. L. Stevenson

The Children's Newspaper, December 13, 1952

## THINGS SAID

RADIO and television have gone far beyond the stage of being mere entertainment, and can now play their part in the cultural field.

Duke of Edinburgh

It is discourteous to the orchestra to clap before the final note has been played. The last few bars should be clearly heard.

Sir John Barbirolli

I HAVE never seen a more perfect example of the creation and leading of a team than when I was a member of a team led by a man called Eisenhower, a man who rarely used the word I.

Lord Tedder

THE men who get to the top are distinguished from their fellows because their fellows know they can rely on them.

Earl Jowitt

WE have a long history of tolerance for foreigners and foreign ways of thought. Our foreign guests have done us no harm; sometimes they have done us good, and often we have done good to them.

Mr. W. Harvey Moore, Q.C.

THE British Commonwealth is growing stronger, not weaker, as colony after colony advances towards self-government.

Mr. P. Smithers, M.P.

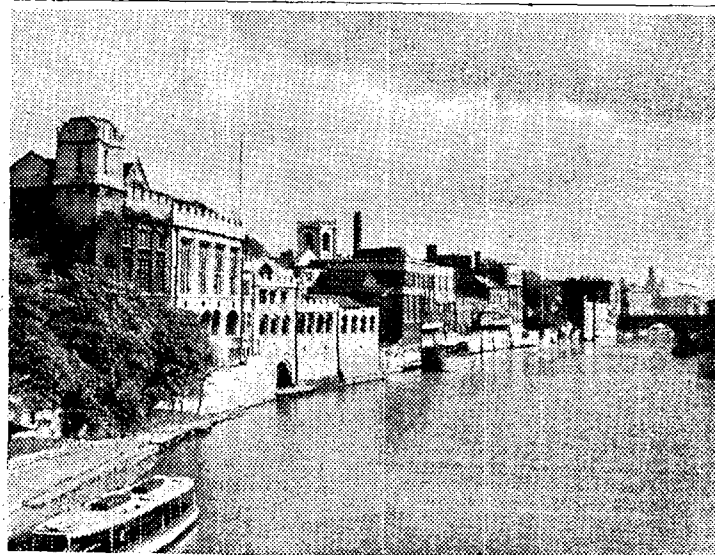
## IN THE COUNTRY

BEAUTY hidden during summer when dense foliage curtains distant scenes, is now revealed in the open fields, the naked trees, the bare hedgerows. New vistas are spread before our eyes; there is a new spaciousness about the landscape.

Near us, as we follow the winding lane, we may note the glory of the beech tree's sleek, fluted column and spreading network of boughs; the gnarled oak stands stripped in all its majesty. In the hedgerows crimson haws and holly berries gleam warmly in the sunlight.

The hazels look bleached and dead, but soon the earliest catkins will appear.

We have joys to anticipate; meanwhile, let us go forth to enjoy the attractions of dark December; for untold delights await those who set forth on a winter ramble.



## OUR HOMELAND

Guildhall Reach from Lendal Bridge, York



# MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(12) The Sparrows

EVER since we learned to recite "A little cock-sparrow sat up in a tree," the name of this small brown bird has been as familiar to us as that of robin redbreast. Yet, as we have found with other birds and animals in this series of talks, familiar names can often lead to mistaken identity when we meet the wild creatures in the field. Our only British robin has an unmistakably red breast, but we have three birds which bear the name of



Hedge Accentor

sparrow, and unless we are careful we may confuse one with the other.

Two of them, the house-sparrow and the tree-sparrow, are true members of their family; but the third, the hedge-sparrow, is more closely related to the robin and is not a sparrow at all. Its correct name is hedge accentor, the word "accentor" referring to its attractive, musical, warbling song, an accomplishment far beyond the ability of either of our sparrows.

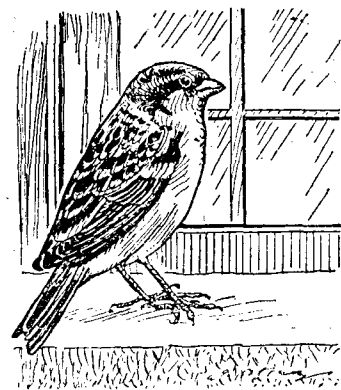
In appearance, too, and in habits, the hedge accentor is not really sparrow-like. A slimmer bird, with a slender bill, warm brown upper parts and greyish throat and breast, it slips quietly through the undergrowth, and, although not shy, dines quietly apart from other birds. At the bird-table it avoids the jostling throng of sparrows, starlings, and tits, hopping on the ground below and picking up a plenteous dinner from the crumbs thrown down by the roisterers overhead.

Of our two true sparrows, the house-sparrow is by far the most numerous and best known. This

is the little bird which has taken kindly to our largest cities and is to be seen congregating in their squares and parks, food-hunting in gutters and on pavements, and chirping in noisy fussy companies on window-ledges, roofs, and chimney-stacks. Even in the country it favours human dwellings, nesting in village streets and clustering in stack-yards and poultry-yards of farms.

Stouter in general build than the accentor, the house-sparrow has a distinctly stouter bill, though the brown upperparts and greyish-white underparts are similar. The female is modestly coloured in this way, but the male has a jaunty dark-grey crown, black bib at the throat, and white wing-bars.

THE tree-sparrow might be called the house-sparrow's country cousin, for although house-sparrows are also to be found in the country it is usually in villages or around farm buildings, while tree-sparrows prefer quieter haunts by riverside pollard willows and old hedgerow trees. If, therefore, we see unmistakably sparrow-like birds in such tree-shaded corners



House-sparrow

we may have found the rather uncommon tree-sparrow; but a close and careful scrutiny will be necessary, for our two sparrows look very much alike.

In the tree-sparrow there is no difference between male and female; both are brown birds with greyish underparts, and both resemble the male house-sparrow in markings. Rather smaller and

Continued in next column

# LITTLE VENICE OF THE FAR EAST

A CN correspondent here describes a visit paid by him to the little Venice-like town of Kottayam, in the southern Indian State of Travancore—the scene of the Third World Conference of Christian Youth, which opens this week and continues until December 27. Hundreds of young people from many parts of the world are now gathered there—the chosen representatives of some 50 nations—and they are demonstrating sense of unity among various branches of the Christian Church.



A street in Kottayam

THE country around Kottayam is a fantastic area, half water, half land, inhabited by a semi-aquatic race, dotted with high-prowed sailing boats which might have been transplanted from a Chinese picture book, and garnished with buildings of distinctly Chinese appearance.

The waterways carry a heavy traffic of wallams or cargo boats, which were introduced to the Malabar Coast centuries ago by Chinese traders. Nearly flat-bottomed, they comprise heavy planks sewn together with string,

curving upwards at each end so that their stems and sterns end in graceful scrolls.

At each end, on small platforms stands the man who poles the wallam over the shallow water with a long bamboo—much as a Norfolk wherryman quants his wherry—and amidsthips is a long, rounded hut of woven coconut fronds. These wallams carry big loads of copra, coconut husks, seashells for burning into lime, corral rock cut into blocks for building, and other merchandise.

It was evening when I arrived at the town of Alleppey, on the coast, where I spent the night.

I wanted to go to Cochin, but my pronunciation of this place name was such that I was shown to a boat bound for Kottayam!

After a few miles of canals we came to a shallow lake so large that one could not see the farther side. Some of the wallam men were poling across this; other were sailing before the wind with little sprit-sails made of matting.

After five or six hours we entered a narrow canal into slightly higher country, green and fertile, with the mellow red roofs of houses showing through the coconut palms.

And then we came to a town, an attractive town, built on hilly, closely-wooded country. This was Kottayam, a town which, in spite of dirt, disease, and poverty—the usual trappings of the East—is yet a charming place. The streets run up and down the hills and, if you follow them long enough, gener-

ally seem to end up at a river or canal.

Kottayam is almost Venice-like in its dependence upon water transport. Down in Old Kottayam where I stayed with a priest, are the remains of ancient city walls and palaces, for Kottayam was once the seat of rajahs. Now it is the centre of the Christian Syrian Orthodox Church.

Commercially, Kottayam is quite an important place. It is the inland port connecting the tea, rubber, and timber country of the Western Ghats to the backwaters which lead to Cochin and the Indian Ocean. Four out of five of its population of 80,000 are Christian, and this is the reason for the World Congress of Christian Youth being held there.

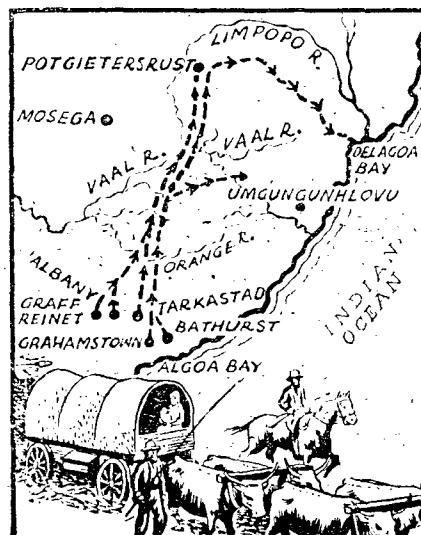


The Protestant Cathedral in Kottayam

Kottayam is so far off the beaten track—it can only be reached by water, or by a long car journey over deplorable roads—that foreigners are not often seen there. I was told that few of the children have seen a white man before my arrival there. They will undoubtedly be thrilled by the arrival of a host of young people representing practically every nationality in the world!

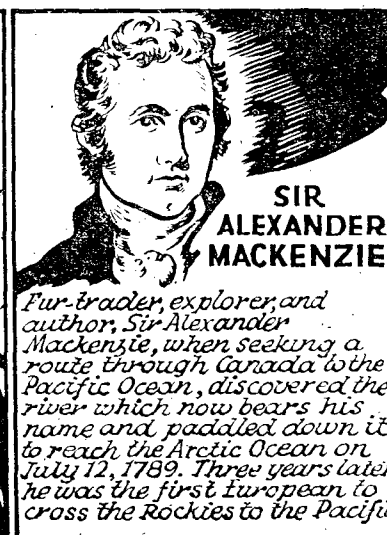
## Empire Mosaic—22

by Ridgway



## THE GREAT TREK

Seeking lands in which to settle under laws of their own, Dutch farmers called Boers would trek north from British-ruled Cape Colony. This movement was at its strongest from 1835 to 1837, when under such leaders as Potgieter and Retief hundreds of these Voortrekkers, or Pioneers, packed all their goods into canvas-covered waggons and crossed the River Vaal. They beat back attacks by native tribesmen and won recognition from the British Government.



## NAMING OF WAGGA WAGGA

A crow forms the crest on the arms of Wagga Wagga in New South Wales. This city was named after the aboriginal pronunciation of the cry of the crow, Wah-gar Wah-gar.





8

## BOYS PERFORM A MUMMERS PLAY

Residents of Chailey, in Sussex, were recently astonished to hear cries for "A doctor, a doctor, ten pounds for a doctor." They were more startled when a doctor promptly appeared and announced:

*I can cure the itch, the stitch, the palsy, and the gout,  
Pains within and pains without.  
If there's nineteen devils in this man,  
I'll cast twenty of them out.*

Then they realised that it was a sign Christmas was drawing near.

Ever since the last days of October, boys of Chailey have been busy rehearsing the ancient Christmas Mummers Play which they are going to perform in order to raise funds to buy a cinema projector for the village hall.

### ANCIENT ORIGIN

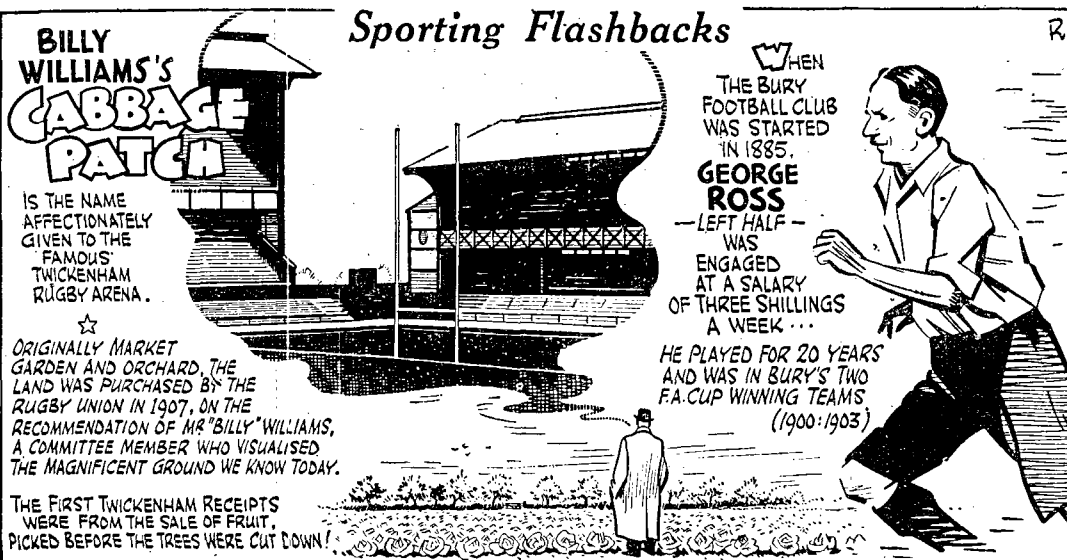
Prehistoric in origin—though largely written in the 12th century and revised in the 17th century—this Mummers Play used to be performed at Christmas time in most English, Welsh, and Irish villages. Today it survives only in a few villages of Nottinghamshire, Hampshire, Dorset, and South Derbyshire, though the custom was recently revived in parts of West Sussex.

The chief characters are St. George and Bold Slasher—son of Father Christmas—who fight a fierce duel with swords which ends in a victory for St. George. That is when the doctor with his magical medicine, the Opplis Popplis Drops, hurries into the room.

Carrying a small bag, he announces:

*In my bag I've crutches for lame ducks,  
Packs and saddles for broken-backed mice,  
And spectacles for blind bats.*

He touches the head and heart of the patient, who promptly rises—cured. This is thought to symbolise the increasing power of the Sun as it rises in the sky with the coming of the new year.



## ONE OF THE FATHERS OF ATOMIC SCIENCE

Next Monday marks the centenary of the birth of the first man to discover that uranium is a radioactive mineral, and therefore might well be called one of the Fathers of Atomic Science. He was a Frenchman, Antoine Henri Becquerel, the winner in 1903 of a Nobel Prize jointly with Pierre and Marie Curie, whose discovery of radium followed as a result of his researches.

Antoine Henri Becquerel came of an illustrious family of scientists, comparable with our Darwins and Huxleys. The first of them to win fame was Antoine's grandfather, Antoine César Becquerel—soldier, discoverer, and one of the best and wisest of fathers.

After a brilliant military career

### MECHANISED CURFEW

The curfew has been rung for centuries at the ancient Cathedral of St. Magnus, Kirkwall. Each night at 8 o'clock the bellringer has made his way to the tower.

Now he will be relieved of his customary journey, for the bell has been mechanised. It tolls 44 times a minute for a period of five minutes.

in Napoleon's army, Antoine César Becquerel devoted himself to the study of electricity, and to him we owe the theory of the electric battery. He also invented instruments of great precision for measuring electro-magnetic forces, and our own Royal Society bestowed on him their highest honour.

His son Alexandre also carried out researches in electricity, and in due course was followed in this field by his own son, Antoine Henri Becquerel, who was born on December 15, 1852.

### THE FAMOUS RAYS

Antoine Henri returned to his grandfather's early study of minerals, and after some experiments on uranium he found, in 1896, that this element at ordinary temperature gave forth an invisible ray that passed through thin plates of metal and affected a photographic plate. These were afterwards called Becquerel rays.

Later on he discovered that rays emitted from uranium salts can ionise the air, that is, make the air a conductor of electricity. He showed that a charged electroscope quickly lost its electric charge when

uranium salts were placed near the instrument. Thus he established fundamental phenomena of radioactivity, though others, among them M. and Mme. Curie and Lord Rutherford, later made the great discoveries which revolutionised the science of the atom.

As a boy, Antoine Henri Becquerel studied at the famous Polytechnic School of Paris, where his father and grandfather before him had won distinction; and later in life he often went there to teach other young students. He was also a celebrated engineer, and directed much bridge-building in France.

He led such an intensely active life that he wore himself out in middle age. He died at a holiday resort in Brittany in August 1908.

### ROYAL RECORDS

The Duke of Edinburgh plans to record the Queen's Christmas Day speech and then play it back to her and the rest of the Royal Family immediately she has finished.

The Duke has often made recordings of the Queen, Prince Charles, and Princess Anne, and sometimes he plays them through at informal gatherings.

## TALES OF FASTNET, SOLE, AND LUNDY

Every day on the wireless we hear references to "areas Rockall, Malin, Shannon," and so on. We all know that they are wide areas round our shores, and some of us know approximately where they are; but few of us know the romance and drama that are invested in them.

A newly-published book should set this right. It is called *From Faeroes to Finisterre*, by John Merrett (Frederick Muller, 10s. 6d.), and contains a collection of Children's Hour broadcasts with a fine salty flavour.

We start at Area Thames which, like the river itself, is "liquid history." It is an area of lightships, 18 of them on the English side alone, and it is the cradle of Trinity House, whose lighthouses and lightships and buoys have saved so many lives.

### WRECKS AND WRECKERS

We pass on to Area Dover with its tales of battles, smugglers, the Goodwin Sands—tales of the Narrow Seas. Then comes Area Wight, with its memories of wrecks and wreckers and also of heroic life-saving.

Portland comes next, and then renowned Plymouth with its undying memories of Drake and the Golden Hind; to Biscay and Finisterre, and then back to Fastnet, Sole, and Lundy—so we voyage on.

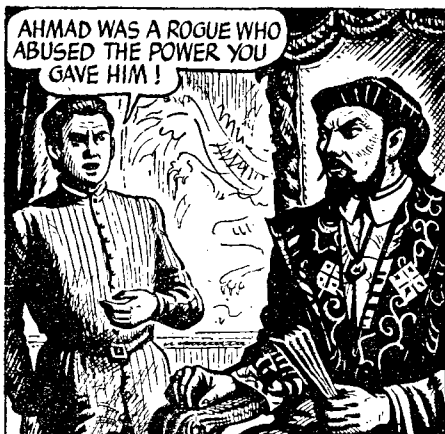
And wherever we heave-to there is some exciting yarn of pirates, shipwrecks, the Armada, sunken treasure—and attempts to salvage it—ships of all kinds, and of sailors who have ever defied the cruel sea.

### TRACK SUIT FOR THE YOUNG PRINCE

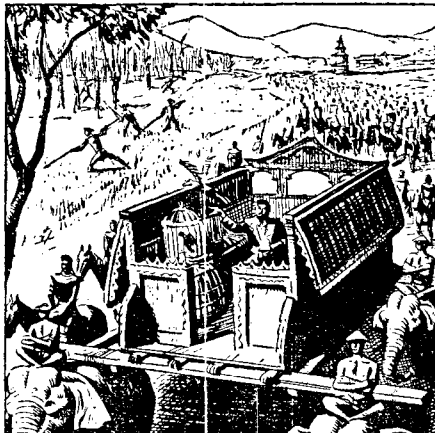
When the Duke of Edinburgh was in Helsinki for the Olympic Games he was greatly impressed by the track suits worn by the Australians.

Recently a small track suit for Prince Charles arrived in England—a present from the Australian team.

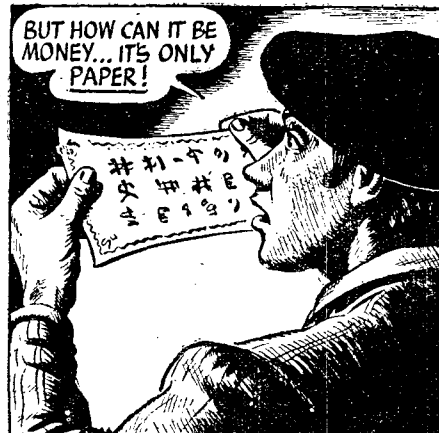
## MARCO POLO'S AMAZING ADVENTURES—the story of an epic journey (5)



Kublai returned to Peking and questioned Marco about the murder of Ahmad. People had already been executed for this, and everyone was afraid to say what they knew. But Marco boldly told Kublai what a tyrant Ahmad had been, and this opened the Emperor's eyes to his dead Minister's infamy. Marco, always modest about himself, does not relate this incident in his book, but we know it from ancient Chinese records.



Kublai praised Marco for speaking up, and the young man became quite an important personage at court. He went on hunting expeditions with the Emperor. These were carried out on a lavish scale. Kublai himself, who suffered from gout, rode in a fine chamber carried by four elephants. Through the top he released his falcons to pursue cranes and other birds. He was accompanied by 10,000 huntsmen.



Marco was continually amazed at the strange things he saw in this faraway empire. The thing which most astonished him was the paper money used in Kublai's dominions. He had never seen anything like it before, and he could never understand the principle of credit by which it functioned. Making money from the bark of trees (from which the paper came) was to him, he said, like "the Secret of Alchemy."



He was also impressed by the system of postal runners who carried the Emperor's dispatches over vast distances to and from Peking. Every three miles on the roads were post-houses where runners waited to carry on the dispatches in the manner of a relay race. Saddled horses and tough riders also waited at the post-houses to carry those dispatches which had to be delivered in the shortest possible time.

Marco finds new wonders when sent to tour China on official business. See next week's instalment



The Children's Newspaper, December 13, 1952

A popular author's thrilling new serial of Queen Anne's day

# THE SILKEN SECRET

by Geoffrey Trease

## 1. A dark night in the city

IT was a blustery wet night, late in August and late in the reign of Queen Anne, when mystery entered the respectable house of Mr. Cogwell, a London merchant.

It was the first and last time mystery ever crossed that threshold to trouble a quiet and sober family. Even so, mystery arrived in a most respectable manner—in a sedan-chair, that is to say, carried by two decent, honest chairmen, almost as well-known to the city as the city was well-known to them.

But first, a mere five minutes before, came the knocking of an earlier caller.

Mr. Cogwell's old serving-man, Thomas, crossed the candle-lit hall and opened the door cautiously upon the dripping darkness of Salisbury Square.

One could not be too careful, these days, though the city was not perhaps quite as lawless as its western outskirts. Houses in Bond Street, Thomas had heard, were broken into openly in daylight. Walking down Piccadilly after dark, you were in greater danger from armed footpads than you were from highwaymen on Hounslow Heath. Ladies were afraid to go to Drury Lane opera, so perilous were the narrow, dimly-lit streets.

THOMAS, however, had been expecting a knock on the door, so he opened it without too much nervousness. Framed in the doorway was a boy of about 14, decently clad in blue coat and breeches and a fawn waistcoat, though his stockings and buckled shoes were mud-splashed from the streets. He had an alert, fresh-coloured face, and he spoke well, though with a countrified ring.

"Please, is this where Mr. Charles Mount is staying?"

Thomas peered down. "It is, my lad. But Mr. Mount is out."

The boy looked surprised. "Oh! Then I must have passed him. I did take a short cut."

"I am expecting Mr. Mount at any moment," said Thomas.

"Well, he won't be long," said the boy, "because he left Wilkins' Coffee House in front of me, and I heard him tell the chairmen to bring him to this address."

"What is the name, please?" Thomas inquired.

"Name? Dick Arlington. But, of course, he won't know me. I was sent by Mr. Fazeley of The London Courier."

"Ah, the newspaper? You had better step into the hall, then, and wait."

THE boy obeyed thankfully, taking off his three-cornered hat.

"Mr. Mount left his snuff-box on the table at the coffee house," he explained. "I've brought it with Mr. Fazeley's compliments. And he'll do himself the honour to

call on Mr. Mount in the morning."

"H'm!" The old serving-man sniffed doubtfully. "I don't know as Mr. Mount wishes to meet journalists. But there's no harm in asking. And it was civil of Mr. Fazeley to send you through all this rain with the snuff-box. Ah," he said, as the louder professional rat-tat of a chairman was heard, "this sounds more like our gentleman."

He opened the door again, then flung it wide. Into the candle-light came two stalwart, muffled figures with dripping hat-brims and glistening noses. Between them was a sedan-chair. Its windows, too, were mottled with raindrops. The men set it down in the middle of the hall, and slipped the leather slings from their shoulders. The man in front stepped from between the poles, turned, and opened the door of the sedan.

"Here ye are, sir," he began in a throaty voice. The next words were stifled on his lips. He gasped, dumbfounded.

There was no passenger on the seat inside.

INSTANTLY there was consternation in the hall.

The other chairman dived round from behind—the servant and the boy craned forward—to make sure that the sedan was really empty.

"Am I goin' crazy?" inquired the first chairman.

"It's past believin'," gasped his friend.

Everyone was exclaiming at once. Their raised voices brought Mr. Cogwell hurrying downstairs to investigate. The merchant was an elderly man, with spectacles and slippers.

Thomas began to explain to his master. The chairmen broke in to tell their story and defend themselves from any possible suspicion. Dick put in a word of his own to support the first part of their

evidence. He recognised the chair and its bearers. He had seen Mr. Mount step into it at Wilkins' Coffee House, and heard him give Mr. Cogwell's address.

"But — but it's impossible!" wailed the old merchant. "A man can't vanish from a sedan-chair like that." He stared at the two frightened chairmen. "If I didn't know you fellows well by sight, I should suspect you of some villainy."

"We been carrying chairs in the city this twenty year, Mr. Cogwell," said the first man, squaring his shoulders, "an' never a word has ever been breathed against our characters—"

"I know, I know. But—did you come straight here from Wilkins' Coffee House?"

"Straight here, Mr. Cogwell."

"Is your chair bewitched then? You mean to tell me that Mr. Mount just vanished during the journey? Mr. Mount is a fair-sized gentleman. Can't you tell any difference when you have someone in the chair and when you haven't?"

The two chairmen turned and gaped at each other.

"I never felt any difference, did you, Sam?"

"No, Matt, can't say as I did."

The boy Dick was stooping forward in front of the sedan. He broke in upon their talk.

"No wonder they didn't, sir. Look here."

"WHAT's that, boy? Thomas, hold the candle so that I can see. What are these great stones doing here?"

Three heavy slabs of masonry were revealed in the light of the candle.

"Well!" gasped the first chairman. "Well, I'll be hanged! Now we know why the chair still felt heavy."

"Yes, you fool," said the old merchant sharply, "but we still don't know how Mr. Mount could change into three pieces of stone."

"I vow to you, Mr. Cogwell, sir—"

"Listen. Are you quite positive you came straight here from the coffee house without making any call or stop of any kind?"

"Positive, sir!"

"Just a moment, Matt," interrupted the other chairman. "True we didn't call anywhere, but we did stop, ye remember."

"Ah, that's right, Sam, so we did. 'Twas just by the Fleet Bridge, Mr. Cogwell. The gentleman rapped on the glass, and o' course we stopped. Reckoned he'd heard a shout, an' thought someone had fallen in the river. Well, we'd heard nothing, and it didn't seem likely, but he would have us take my lantern and look about. Course, we couldn't see anyone—it's a pitch-black night and it was peltin' with rain just then."

Answers on page 12

Continued on page 13

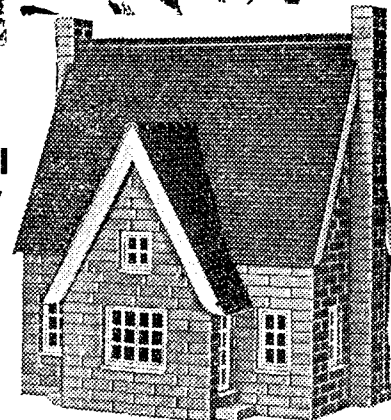
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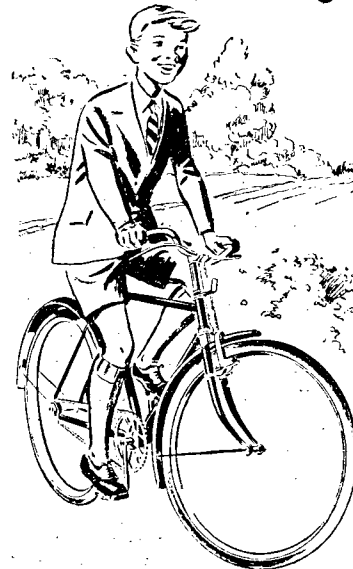
Buildings can be permanent or dismantled by merely soaking in water, and the bricks used again and again. Brickplayer Kits at 28/6 and 52/6 and Accessories are available from good toyshops and stores.



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## SENSATIONAL NEWS!!

Your Own Stamp Store

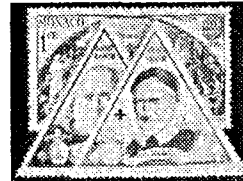
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## 1952 COLONIALS

1952 has seen a very fine lot of new British Colonial stamps, many soon to be replaced by stamps of the new reign. I will send a fine packet of these from Samoa, Brunel, Virgin Islands, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, and Tristan da Cunha FREE to all applicants for Approvals enclosing postage.

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# SPORTS SHORTS

EARLY in the New Year, Sir Pelham Warner will open the new Middlesex C.C.C. indoor cricket school, at Alexandra Palace. Jack Hearne, former Middlesex and England all-rounder, will be in charge of the coaching of schoolboys and club players.

EVERY year the Sports Writers' Association selects the man they consider has done most to enhance Britain's sporting prestige. Their choice for 1952 is Len Hutton, the famous Yorkshire and England cricketer.



Cyril Washbrook (left) and Len Hutton being directed by Anthony Asquith while filming Terence Rattigan's The Final Test, at Pinewood Studios.

THE swimming events in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne will take place in a £280,000 pool to be built in Fawkner Park. This wonderful swimming "arena" will seat 6000 spectators.

FOR the fourth successive time, 30-year-old Ken Joy of the Medway Wheelers has been chosen as the best all-rounder of the year. His average speed for the 50-mile, 100-mile, and 12-hour races was 22.8 m.p.h.

## THE SILKEN SECRET

Continued from page 9

"After a minute he calls us back. 'Come back,' he yells; 'and don't waste any more time!' And he slams the door again, which he'd opened to speak to us, and we went back, and here we are."

"That's gospel truth, sir," agreed Sam.

"It doesn't make sense," groaned the merchant. "Mr. Mount wouldn't vanish like that of his own free will. There's some strangeness somewhere. He may have been kidnapped in those brief moments when you left the chair—murdered even—"

"MURDERED?"

A clear young voice echoed the word. They all looked up. A girl was coming down the broad staircase, candlestick in hand. She looked about 13. Her fox-red hair was down on her shoulders and she was in a loose dressing-gown, almost ready for bed. She stared at Mr. Cogwell in horror.

"Has something happened to my uncle?"

The old man turned to her and put his arm round her shoulder.

TWO seasons ago the football team of the Halbutt Secondary Modern School, Dagenham, were unbeaten in the junior section of the local schools league; last season they retained their undefeated record in the intermediate section; and this season they have been carrying all before them once again—in the senior division.

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jean Forbes, who comes from Burghersdorp, South Africa, is already being spoken of as a lawn tennis champion of the future. She is being specially coached at Durban by Bobby Heine Miller, a leading South African tennis player a few years ago.

INSTRUCTION classes in golf in schools all over the country which have the facilities is the aim of the British Golf Foundation. Already 20 of our larger schools have joined the scheme and a further 70 are being approached.

AN American teen-age tennis player who is likely to make an impression at Wimbledon next year is 18-year-old Julie Sampson. Julie, who is America's junior champion, is a student at the University of California. She recently won two titles in the New South Wales championships.

NEWCOMERS to swimming may soon be able to win a special Amateur Swimming Association badge and award. To qualify for this "learner's" badge, entrants will have to swim 100 yards crawl or breaststroke, swim 50 yards backstroke, retrieve an object in six feet of water, and dive from four feet.

PROBABLY the oldest soccer team in the country is Old Owen's Veterans, with an average age of 40 years and four months; it includes a magistrate, a school governor, and an architect.

"Don't distress yourself, Celia. We are rather anxious about Mr. Mount, but we know nothing for certain." He told her what the chairmen said. Her eyes opened wider.

"But who would do a thing like that to Uncle Charles? I don't understand."

"Nor do I," said Mr. Cogwell heavily. "But London is a lawless city nowadays. There's a mystery here, but who's to solve it I don't know. We shall have to think—"

"May I say something, sir?" It was the boy, Dick.

"Yes, yes. What is it?"

"My master could help you, if anyone could. He knows the underworld, sir—they say no other honest man knows it so well."

"Indeed? And who is your master?"

"Pharamus Fazeley, editor of The London Courier—"

"Fazeley? By all means. Celia, my dear"—the old merchant said in a brisker tone, "if there is one man in London can solve this puzzle, it is Pharamus Fazeley!"

To be continued

The Children's Newspaper, December 13, 1952

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The Children's Newspaper, December 13, 1952

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## NINE-YEAR-OLD POETS, AND OTHERS

A delightful volume consisting of the work of artists and writers aged seven to 14 lies on our desk. It is called *Fantasy and Fun* (Forbes Robertson, 12s. 6d.), and it contains poems, prose, and pictures by about 60 children who attend the same school, which, like the compiler, remains anonymous.

Most of the contributions have a delightful freshness about them, and to give some idea of their quality we can but quote.

One 12-year-old humorist, Ross Johnston, has a typical schoolboy approach to the subject of Books: "If there were not any books," he writes, "we could not learn French Grammar from books (which would, however, be a very good thing for me, at any rate)."

Another 12-year-old, P. R. Dixon, reveals himself as a poet of the countryside.

*High hills, not rolling plains,  
That's the kind of place for me;  
Country lanes, not railway trains;  
That is what I want to see.  
Walks o'er the hills to other places,  
Not just rows and rows of faces.*

An even younger poet, nine-year-old A. M. H. Sarafian, grows lyrical on the subject of Bedtime:

*The cows are sleeping peacefully  
In the meadow beyond the ilex tree.  
Now thoughtfully I go to bed  
With the stars going round in my head.*

*And there I dream of pretty things:  
Jewels, and silver, and golden rings,  
And waterfalls  
Where the Kingfisher calls.*

As a final sample of this anthology of youthful aspirations, we give these lines on Shadows, written by another nine-year-old, E. S. Gropper:

*They are made by posts,  
And look like ghosts.  
They follow cars as they pass by,  
And even pigeons as they fly.*

*They come from houses dark and tall,  
Blackening the street from wall to wall.*

*They come from you, when the sun's up;  
And, at teatime, even from your cup.*

Almost worthy of Robert Louis Stevenson himself, some of us may think.

### BOYS' CLUB FESTIVALS

Some 200 boys' clubs throughout England have been taking part in Arts Festivals organised by the National Association of Boys' Clubs this year. First held five years ago, these festivals are increasing in popularity; this year there were again record entries in the Music and Arts and Crafts sections.

### C N's Special Christmas Competition

## TWO BICYCLES TO BE WON!

### 10 Ten-shilling Notes as Consolation Prizes

CHRISTMAS is nigh, and this week's competition has a topical interest.

We just want you to design and make a Christmas Card of your own, and send it to us; and as help with the lettering you may cut out and use all or some of the words printed below.

For the two best entries, according to age, neatness, and originality, there will be two grand bicycles—one for a boy, one for a girl—and 10 Ten-shilling Notes for the next best entries.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Simply make your own Christmas Card—using your own design and colours and any of the words which are printed below—then inside, or on the back of your card, write your full name, age, and address. Ask a grown-up to sign it as your own unaided work. Then attach to your card the competition token (marked C N Token) at the foot of the back page of this issue. Send your entry to:

**C N Competition No. 16,**  
3 Pilgrim Street,  
London, E.C.4 (Comp.),

to arrive not later than Tuesday, December 23, the closing Date.

This competition is open to all readers under 17 living in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Isles. The prizes will be awarded for the best and most original entries according to age. The Editor's decision is final.

# MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## 100000 SOCKS ARMY GREY WARM MIXTURE 5 PAIRS 9 1/11 POST 1/-

The popular military grey, thick, warm, hardwearing socks. Full length. Brand-New stock of 50,000 pairs to be offered at less than cost of production. Buy before the cold weather commences and the prices rise.



## 19 1/11 POST ETC 1/6 RUBBER WELLINGTONS

Priced everywhere at 28/11, our first stock of 5,000 pairs we are offering at 19/11 to advertise our winter wear catalogue. Remember the great shortage when winter really arrives and get your bargain now. Pure, hard-wearing rubber and really waterproof with reinforced uppers and heavy cleats. Sizes 6 to 11 only. For use with these boots, LONG WARM SOCKS, 3/9. Post 7d.

## 10/- INCL POST Real Movie PROJECTOR

COMPLETE WITH A COLOURED FILM AND 2 OTHERS  
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## COWBOY OUTFIT

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Finished in shades of chocolate and dark brown marten. Magnificently warm and soft supple rich Persian leather palms. Such a low price, but please do not blame us if we are quickly sold out. Sizes up to 8. They would fit small men as well.

## Genuine Canadian Officers' FLEECY COAT LININGS 166

In a matter of a few minutes your old raincoat or coat converted into a luxuriously warm winter coat merely by buttoning one of these detachable - UNUSED - Canadian Officers' soft woollen mixture fleecy, greyish green linings inside your garment. When spring comes simply take it out. For size state chest for men, bust for women. 16/6. Post, etc., 3d.

## 1500 FT. RANGE 19 1/11 POST ETC 1/6 FLOTILLA PILOT BRAND SEARCH-LIGHT TORCH

Actually focus from a few feet up to nearly 1/3rd of a mile by simple screw regulation at the head, adjustable from a spot to a beam. Portable, only 1 1/2 lbs. total weight, with batteries easily obtainable. Easy to hold. Pure drawn brass heavily chromium plated. Adjusted to instantaneous flash switch or permanent switch. Ideal for farmers, spot the fox, or trespassers, for signalling, motorists, or dark country lanes. Literally turns night into day. 19/11 complete with batteries. Post 1/6.



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**BUY NOW FOR XMAS!**

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## THE BRAN TUB

### HIDDEN CROSSWORD

EACH line of the following verse hides a four-letter word as part of two or three consecutive words. If you find the right four words they will make a miniature crossword, spelling four different words downwards.

The crimes of the thief or the robber  
Always go beyond reason and rhyme,  
But the deeds of a hero are famous;  
His name remains bright for all time.

Answer next week

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

**FURRY FORESTERS.** In the Big-woods, Don and Ann surprised a squirrel. Catching sight of the children, it raced nimbly up a huge oak and was soon lost to view.

"It was burying a nut, I believe," said Ann.

"Or digging one up," Don replied. "Jim says squirrels hide nuts and acorns in so many places that often they cannot find them again. Do they, Farmer Gray?"

"Well, squirrels' stores are often left untouched," answered the farmer. "Whether they forget, or bury more than they need, is open to conjecture."

"Perhaps a squirrel planted the very oak we are standing under," suggested Ann.

"Very likely!" said the farmer.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### MISSING: A MOUSE

PAUL was proudly showing Billy his new white mouse.

"Isn't it a beauty!" said Billy. "Can it do any tricks?"

"Rather!" said Paul. "He can climb right up my arms, and if I put him on my head he can balance there as I walk."

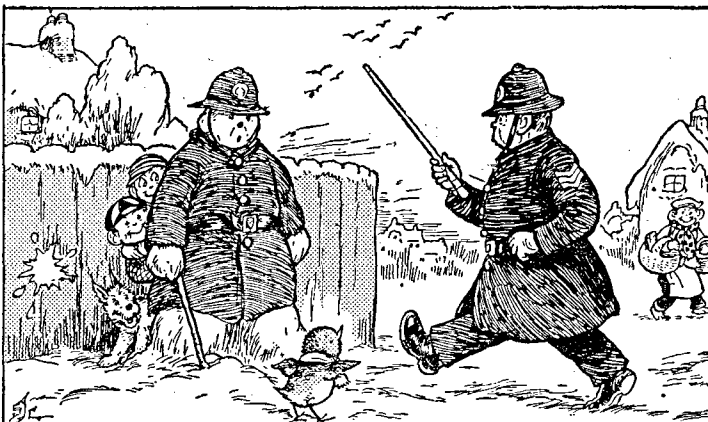
He was just about to show Billy when Mummie called from downstairs: "Would you boys like an apple?"

The answer was a rush downstairs; and when they came back to Billy's bedroom the mouse was gone!

They searched high and low, but there was no sign of him.

"I'm sure he must still be up-

## JACKO AND CHIMP CAUGHT IN THE ACT



Constable Monkeyman was only too pleased to accept Mother Jacko's offer to "step inside for a cup of tea." He took off his coat and helmet and, foolishly perhaps, left them in the hall. The sight of them was too much for Jacko and Chimp, who snatched them up and smuggled them out of the house for their new snowman. They fitted perfectly. Then the Sergeant came along, and we can be quite sure that, when he had got over his surprise, he wanted an explanation from everyone concerned.

### Sammy Simple

"I HEAR you have lost your dog, Sammy," said his friend. "Why doesn't your father put an advertisement in the paper?"

"That wouldn't be any good," muttered Sammy, "it can't read."

### Find pussy

The following are clues to words which begin with CAT. See how many you can find?

**BORDER** plant; terrible happening;  
China's old name; complete list;  
this becomes a butterfly; a large church.

Answers next week

### Hidden places

My first is what we use to think.  
A species of my next is plane.  
My whole's an Essex market town.  
And has been such since King John's reign.

Answer next week

### FAMILIAR TREES

THE Lawsonia or Lawson's Cypress usually grows in parks or gardens. Its fern-like foliage form an erect, cylindrical spire, sometimes about 100 feet high.

The evergreen leaves consist of tiny overlapping scales, growing so close to the twigs that they completely hide them. The small globular cones possess only eight scales, which form a box. As the cones ripen the scales part and the seeds drop.

In the United States it is known as Port Orford Cypress. Here the lower branches vanish at an early age, and the tree assumes far bigger proportions. It is much valued for its timber.

### CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two letters of the second, and so on.

1. Spanish cape which gave its name to Nelson's last and most famous victory; the battle destroyed Napoleon's sea power and saved England from invasion.

2. The ship in which Jason and his companions sailed to seek for the Golden Fleece; Jason accomplished the quest with the help of Medea.

3. Name of best-known and most dangerous sandbank round Britain; lying in the Straits of Dover, the sands are uncovered at low tide.

4. Great river of Pakistan, 2000 miles long; flows through many mouths into the Indian Ocean near Karachi.

Answer next week

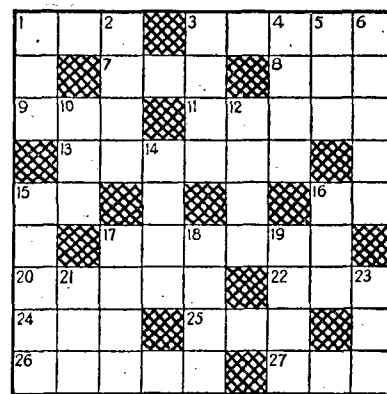
## Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Favourite. 3 Passes rapidly. 7 Mineral. 8 Used in golf. 9 Greyish brown. 11 Walk. 13 Make amends. 15 Within. 16 Upon. 17 Shout. 20 Dwelling-place. 22 To keep sheep in. 24 Used on the roads. 25 Charge. 26 Upright. 27 Fresh.

READING DOWN. 1 Cushion. 2 Musical sound. 3 Festival. 4 Article. 5 Refreshing drink. 6 Old carriage borne on poles. 10 Vase. 12 Actual. 14 Act. 15 Angry. 16 To be in debt. 17 Make a hole. 18 Opposite of right. 19 Not shut. 21 Barrier. 23 At once.

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, December 13, 1952



### Acid drops

IN cricket you're an awful mutt  
If you drop a catch. But, upon  
my soul,  
In a game of Rugby you're fussed  
and praised  
If you're clever enough to drop a goal.

### His reason

THE office boy lived in an outlying district and, as a great snowstorm had piled deep drifts on the road to town, his employer was not surprised that the lad did not turn up for work. The next day, however, Johnny did come to work.

"Good-morning," greeted his boss. "I suppose the inclement weather kept you away yesterday."

"No, sir; it was the snow."

### Stung to action

WHEN a languid old man from Quebec  
Dived suddenly into the beck,  
They asked: "Did you fall?"  
He replied: "Not at all,  
But a hornet had dropped on my neck."

### Shakespeare II

"WHO wrote The Merchant of Venice?" asked the teacher, fixing his gaze on a pupil in the back row.

"Please, sir, it wasn't me."

The teacher was more amused than angry, and that evening he related the incident to his wife, who, at the time, was engrossed in a novel. She laughed in an absent-minded sort of manner and said: "And I expect it was him all the time."

### YOUNG QUIZ—answers

- 1 On May 6, 1840.
- 2 A square tower, especially the type erected by the Normans.
- 3 Ancient Greece.
- 4 Peaceful.
- 5 Lacrosse.
- 6 Alexander Graham Bell.
- 7 The Tonga Islands.
- 8 Prince Charles.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Wrong letter. Clean, brass, wash, rake, patch, weed, beds, trim, mend, gate  
Chain Quiz. Danube, Belloc, octopus, Usk  
Hidden flowers. Rose, daisy, pansy, clover, pink, celandine  
Behead and curtail. Slink, link, ink, in, I

## BOYS AND GIRLS LOOK AT THESE GRAND SWISS WATCH BARGAINS...

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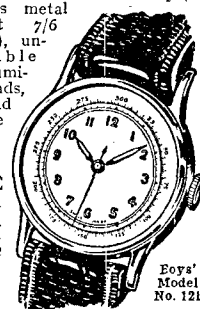


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Return if unsuitable or call. MONTROSE PRODUCTS, Dept. C.N.P.15, 623/7 Holloway Rd., London N.19

## Getting ready for Christmas

IN far away Toyland, over the sea, [be, Small folk are busy as busy can For old Father Christmas they're fashioning toys, Which he will deliver to good girls and boys. There are dollies and teddy-bears, boxes of bricks, Soldiers and sailors and conjuring tricks. Noah's arks and gollywogs, clockwork toys, too, Jet planes and speed boats of silver and blue. When Christmas Eve comes, they will pile the sleigh high, And cheer as old Santa drives off through the sky.

## Squirrel on the keys



Is this little squirrel playing the Nutcracker Suite?